

## Mateo Gonzalez Manrique to Andrew Jackson, July 26, 1814, from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by John Spencer Bassett.

### GONZÁLEZ MANRIQUE TO JACKSON.1

1 July 21, 1814, Governor Manrique wrote to Jackson as follows: "I have received your letter of the 12th instant, which I will answer more particularly next month. God preserve you many years."

Pensacola, July 26, 1814.

*Sir*, I have received, by Capt. John Gordon the communication you addressed me from your head-quarters at Fort-Jackson, bearing date the 12th Inst.

The delay which has taken place, has arisen from no other source, than the perplexity in which I found myself, in deciding whether I should return your letter without reply in imitation of the conduct of Genl. Flournoy in conformity to the order of President Madison, or make a frank reply to the two points which are the subject of it. The respect and attention which your person and employment exact, have decided me to the more generous part, and that which is peculiar to the Spanish character, waving the consideration that the conduct of the President merits imitation in this instance.

The information you have received is it is presumed without foundation, as it is evident that no act direct or indirect has emanated from this Government, from which disagreeable consequences can result, as will presently appear.

Two reports have reached you, the one that those Indians who are inimical to the United States, and at peace with Spain, have sought, and contrary to justice, have obtained

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an asylum within our Territory, where they are maintained by order of the Governor of Pensacola, and upon these grounds you require that Francis, McQueen and whatever other Creek-chiefs there may be, be immediately arrested and sent to you for punishment. These chiefs not being, at this time, in this place it would be impossible to accede to such a request as you make, even admitting that Spain forgetful of that humanity with which she has ever afforded a shelter to the Indians that border on these possession, and of the treaties made with the Creek-Indians when we conquered Florida, as well as those concluded with the English, could comply with your wishes, so opposite to the simple hospitality which the Indians in their present miserable condition, have a right to claim at our hands; And even were those chiefs now, in this place, Spain could never forget the laws of Nations of her observance of which, she has given ample proofs to the United-States, in not having demanded of them the traitors, insurgents, incendiaries, and even the assassins of her chiefs, namely Gutierrez, Toledo,<sup>2</sup> and many

<sup>2</sup> José Bernardo Gutierrez de Lara, Mexican revolutionary, who in 1811 intrigued with Secretary Monroe against Spanish rule in Mexico, and in 1812 led a filibustering expedition into Texas. José Alvarez de Toledo, a Cuban, engaged in similar intrigues in the United States at the same time, joined Gutierrez in Texas and displaced him. See I. J. Cox, "Monroe and the Early Mexican Revolutionary Agents", in *Am. Hist. Assoc., Annual Report* for 1911, I. 199–208.

others whom the American Government protects, and maintains, in committing hostilities, in fomenting the revolution, and in lighting up the flames of discord in the internal provinces of the Kingdom of Mexico.

The other report you have received is that the officer who commands his Britanic Majesty's frigate the *Orpheus*, has been suffered to land in our territory 25000 stand of arms, and 300 barrels of ammunition with the manifest design of enabling the Creeks to renew a sanguinary war against the United States.

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I would be glad to know what authority you have for saying that the river Apalachicola belongs to us. The Government of the United States, by whose orders, I suppose you act, cannot be ignorant of the treaty existing between Great Britain and the Creek-Indians when Spain took possession of Florida, and that this is the same treaty that now exists between Spain, and those Indians.

Turn your eyes to the Isle of Barataria, and you will there perceive that within the very Territory of the United States, Pirates are sheltered and protected with the manifest design of committing hostilities by sea, upon the Merchant-vessels of Spain, and with such scandalous notoriety that the cargoes of our vessels taken by those Pirates, have been sold in Louisiana as was the case with the Pastora (shepherdess) and other vessels.

This is sufficient to convince, you, Sir, that Spain always conforming to principles of friendship and harmony and to that religious scrupulousness, with which, at all times, and with all nations, she has observed her treaties, will not alter her conduct, unless compelled by the most extreme necessity (which it is hoped will not be the case) while the motives which could induce it, are so insufficient.

The necessity of fulfilling my duty does not diminish my desire of obliging you in whatever may contribute to your personal gratification. God preserve you many years;

Yr. Obt. Servt.